(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं,

(ग) इस निर्णय के प्रति रूस सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हैं, और

(घ) रक्षा सचिव की रूस यात्रा किस प्रयोजनार्थ निर्धारित की गई थी

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

News-item on IAF

173. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item published in the Times of India of 2nd February, 1999 under the Caption "The undeserving fly high in IAF: Study"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Inhouse Committee on Flight Safety was constituted by Indian Air Force to review the aircraft accidents" incidents and recommend measures to-enhance flight safety in the Indian Air Force. Air Force authorities have reported that the recommendations regarding training and personnel policies have since been implemented adequately.

Setting up of a strategic command and control system

174. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been and are being taken to evolve and set up a strategic command and control system, after establishing India's nuclear weapons capability, as a step towards, creating a credible deterrent against weapons of mass destruction; and

(b) the precise nature and details of the command and control system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) India's nuclear deterrent is predicated on the basic principle of strict political/civilian control. Such control would be exercised through appropriate scientific, technological and military management of the nuclear assets of the country to prevent unauthorised or accidental use.

Violation of Rules in the appointment of Deputy Chief of Naval Staff

175. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Regulation 134 of the Navy Act provides that appointment of all Officers above the Rank of Captain shall be made by Government on the recommendation of the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS);

(b) if so, whether in the recent appointment to the post of Deputy Chief of naval Staff, the said provision was over-looked; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the rule or provision of the Act which was the basis for the deviation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The recommendations made by the Chief of Naval Staff are by definition, recommendations. Appointments are made by the Government. In the case relating to the appointment of Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Government took a decision after considering all aspects.